

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Kitchloo et al. **EXAMINER:** D. Hamlin
SERIAL NO.: 09/547,088 **GROUP ART UNIT:** 1751
FILED: April 11, 2000 **DOCKET:** 100-9
FOR: INFUSION OF DYE USING A PLASTICIZER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed August 30, 2001, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) A method of infusing a dye into a surface of a plastic material having a solubility parameter δ_p , comprising the steps of:

dissolving a dye and a plasticizer into an aggressive solvent having a solubility parameter δ_s near δ_p to form a solution; and
contacting the surface of the plastic with the solution.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the plastic material comprises a plastic matrix and the dissolved plasticizer in the solution induces local surface mobility within the plastic matrix.